

Heritage News

Heritage News is the newsletter of the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market, and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

January 1988

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Tuesday, January 26, 1988
7:30 pm

LOCATION: The Freight House Coffee Shop
Depot Town, Ypsilanti

PROGRAM: YPSILANTI...Then and Now, by
ROBERT LaRUE

Mr. LaRUE will present an entertaining and informative slide show of Ypsilanti buildings, **WITH A DIFFERENCE**. He has gone to the trouble of not only photographing Ypsilanti's interesting buildings, but of searching out photographs of the structures as they once were, in an early, if not original, form. Old and new images will be juxtaposed, giving us a rare opportunity to compare notes on the "built environment" we all love.

In a few instances, Mr. LaRue has three versions of the same building: the historical, the more recent, and the **RESTORED**. This should spark a lively discussion among those present, so for **FUN** and **ENLIGHTENMENT**, come and bring a friend, young or old. Or if you know anyone who remembers old Ypsilanti, bring him/her along! Mr. LaRue arrived here at the age of three in 1923, not exactly a newcomer, would you agree?)

Refreshments will be served. See you there!



Meet and welcome enthusiastic newcomers to our community:

DIANA STETSON
and
ROBB PILKERTON

who have bought the former Van Bolt residence, the Gothic Revival at 410 North Huron!

MARY WARNER
1913-1987

Because our November issue of Heritage News had gone to press before the sudden death of Mary Warner, we now extend our condolences to Mary's family for the loss of their mother and our great friend. Mary served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Heritage Foundation from its beginning in 1974 until shortly before her death. She was a wonderful person to work with: always willing to do the job, always 'up' with that indomitable 'business as usual' air of hers. We will all remember her (with her late husband, Dick) selling Home Tour tickets at the Foundation booth in front of the Historical Museum during Festival; the Board will miss her at our meetings; and all those who knew her as a neighbor will miss those chats around the kitchen table. There was a quality about her spirit that surely taught us all something about how to live - a kind of courage, if you will, that apparently saw her through right to the end. We will remember her (and Dick, as well) as the kind of American every neighborhood would like to have more of. She will be missed. We are proud to have had her with us.

HISTORIC G.A.R.: restoration in progress... It's a joy to see that little gem of early Ypsilanti, the G.A.R. building (across from Congdon's ACE Hardware on Pearl) under restoration at last. Kris and Gary Maxton, who have done such a first class job of restoring the old Greene's Jewelers building on Michigan Avenue, have a long-term lease on the old G.A.R. and have begun work to convert the building to an apartment unit above and office or retail space below. We can be sure that the Maxton's will restore the front to all of its historic charm. WATCH IT AS IT HAPPENS!

PEARL AND WASHINGTON: Watch the corner... the southeast one of Pearl and Washington during the next several months. The major commercial building there, owned by Bill Kinley, has already had a major renovation of the fascinating upstairs office area (where EMU offices are now ensconced). The brick has been cleaned and cornice restored. Now work continues on the ground floor and basement. Awnings will complete the revival.

MORE RENOVATION DOWNTOWN... Louie Roumanis, owner of the popular Tower Inn Restaurant on W. Cross, has taken over 205 W. Michigan (formerly Dolly's Pub) and plans to convert the upper floors into 4 apartments, renovate the character-filled pub interior, and redo the facade. Downtown becomes busier and busier as people move into the upper floors and buildings become more attractive.

CURTAINS FOR DOWNTOWN? Rumor has it that one contractor, Barry LaRue in fact, spent a modest amount of his own cash to curtain the upper windows before finishing his facade renovation of Karonias' Palace Restaurant on N. Washington. Take a look, next time you drive by. See if it wouldn't be a nice idea for other bare upper floor windows downtown.

FEEL BETTER WITH THE PAST. Brendan Gill, New York columnist, put it well when he said, "We feel better when we find ourselves in the presence of the past, with its evidence of the mingled aspirations and disappointments of our ancestors."

YPSILANTI PROMOTIONAL VIDEO TO HAVE FEBRUARY PREMIERE

Ypsilanti area folk are about to get a very upbeat image of themselves and their environment with the production of a promotional video of the region. It will visually portray the quality of life here, in its many facets: recreation, business, residential, hospitals, etc. Of course, it will describe the important preservation movement that has grown over the past dozen years, including the development of the large Historic District. The video is a joint effort of Ypsilanti Township, City, and the Chamber of Commerce. Eastern Michigan and Washtenaw Community College have also contributed, as have the Home Builders' Association of Washtenaw County and the Ann Arbor Board of Realtors, with Sue Dickinson, City Economic Specialist, as Coordinator. The finished product will have its premiere in February and then go on sale through the Chamber of Commerce. LET'S LOOK FORWARD TO IT!



COMPLETION OF GILBERT RENOVATION IN SIGHT! Chris and Steve White expect to complete the renovation of the Gilbert Mansion by March or early April. Two of the seven units are already rented and will be occupied by February 1. Last year at this time, we were still waiting for the mighty action to begin; now the major surgery is almost over, the patient has survived and, miracle of miracles, looks a thousand times better for the treatment. What a shot in the arm for the neighborhood and, indeed, for the entire city!

LaRUE MADE VICTORIAN SCREEN/STORM DOORS... If you are looking for an alternative to the cold and inappropriate aluminum storm/screen combination that usually destroys the appearance of the historic front door, look at the front of 410 W. Forest (corner of Forest and Lowell). There you will see a vintage wooden storm/screen combination door which might have come with the rest of the Victorian building. Instead, it was built by our local carpenter, Barry LaRue.

WATERWORKS PARK: A Project for '88 By the end of 1988 we can expect to see a bike path and footpaths, as well as pedestrian bridges, over the Huron from Michigan Avenue south towards Ford Lake, including a bridge connecting Riverside Park under the Michigan Avenue bridge with the proposed parkway trail to the south. (At last! the much abused Huron is getting the treatment it deserves!)

THE BREAKEY HOUSE IS ONCE AGAIN OCCUPIED...

After more than a year of rehabilitation efforts by Oscar Haab and crew, the Breakey House is once again occupied. The Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce and Miller & Associates, a CPA service firm, moved in early in November. The CC move enables demolition work to continue in the city block being razed for the construction of the new EMU downtown business school. Also having found a new home is "Grey Kitty," a neighborhood feline monarch adopted by the human inhabitants of the building. On occasion, Grey Kitty is not confined to his quarters at night and, free to make his rounds of the building, sets off the burgler alarm to break the calm of the winter night.

HELP ABUSED CHILDREN! Member Stan Harbison wishes all to know that you may participate in Washtenaw County Juvenile Court sessions to train volunteers to help abused children. Call Stan, who is Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 971-2995.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH... "Today it is almost obligatory for a city to have a fine old theatre or train station or office building that has been saved ... a building that 20 years ago would have been pulled down without a second thought." Time, Nov. 23, 1987

AT LAST! DEPOT RESTORATION PROJECT UNDERWAY!

Only the close observer will have noticed that work is in progress on the Ypsilanti depot, that hitherto forsaken namesake of Depot Town. Jim and Carol Kovalak, formerly of the Pickle Barrel Restaurant in Willis, are the new owners. They have spent months with their architect over designs, and have just about finalized plans with the City - including close scrutiny by the Historic District Commission. Meanwhile, they have been working on foundation repairs; if you look closely the next time you are at the Farmers' Market, you will see what an improvement has already been made to that crumbling aspect of the building. Design plans include an addition to accommodate all the necessary elements of a restaurant. The breezeway between the main building and the former baggage house will be glassed in, and a tower will be added to resemble a former one. Look for more obvious work to begin when the weather becomes warmer!



Remember! FARMERS' MARKET... is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. It's still the best place for apples, eggs, bacon, honey, fresh fruits and vegetables - so don't desert it during these cold winter months!

PENINSULAR PARK: a 'hidden jewel' waiting for completion and discovery ... Sue Dickinson reports that work began in the fall on the 6.2 acre park owned by the City just above the Leforge bridge on the north side of the Huron River. Completion of the project is scheduled for spring. There will be walks, trails, picnic shelter, and canoe portages to please outdoor enthusiasts, making Ypsilanti even more attractive to residents and visitors.

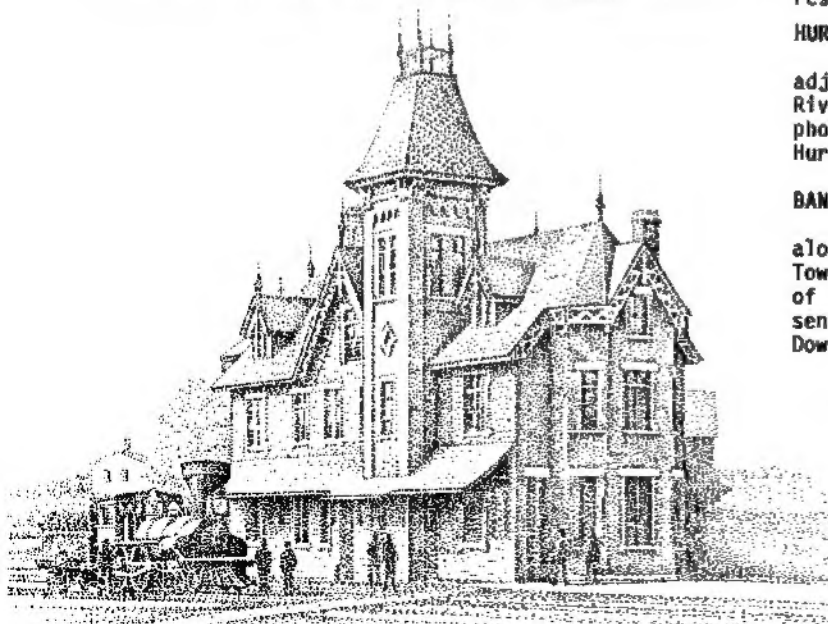
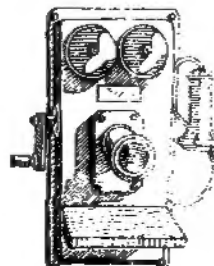
HURON RIVER MUSEUM?... The City is also hoping to receive a grant to renovate the adjacent historic powerhouse, converting it to a Huron River Museum. Call Sue at City Hall if you have old photographs or other memorabilia related to the mighty Huron: anything that would depict its history.

BANNERS GO UP IN UNIVERSITY VILLAGE... Conveying an identity and pride of place, banners went up along Cross Street in late fall, from Ballard to the Tower. Mounted on light poles in pairs with bold images of the Tower and an historic window, they project a sense of vitality and hospitality. Let's have them in Downtown and Depot Town, too! **WITH STRONG GRAPHICS!**

HELP KEEP US ALL INFORMED!

Send items of preservation doings, community improvements, and other similar items of interest for the Heritage News to:

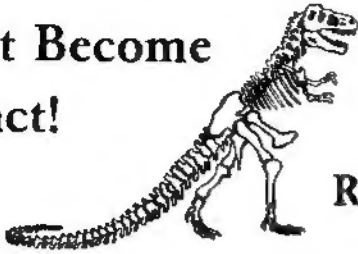
JACK HARRIS, Editor
Heritage News
510 Pearl
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(or call 485-2155)



Michigan Central Depot in Ypsilanti, 1863

IF YOU STILL HAVEN'T PAID YOUR 1987 HERITAGE FOUNDATION DUES...

**Don't Become
Extinct!**



Renew Today!

Remember, September is the time to pay dues. If you know you didn't pay then, perhaps you would like to bring your membership up to date.

Membership is just \$3 for students and senior citizens, \$10 for individuals, and \$15 for families.

Please make your check out to:

YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION,

and mail to:

**Betty Randazzo, Treasurer
Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
6101 Hitchingham
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION

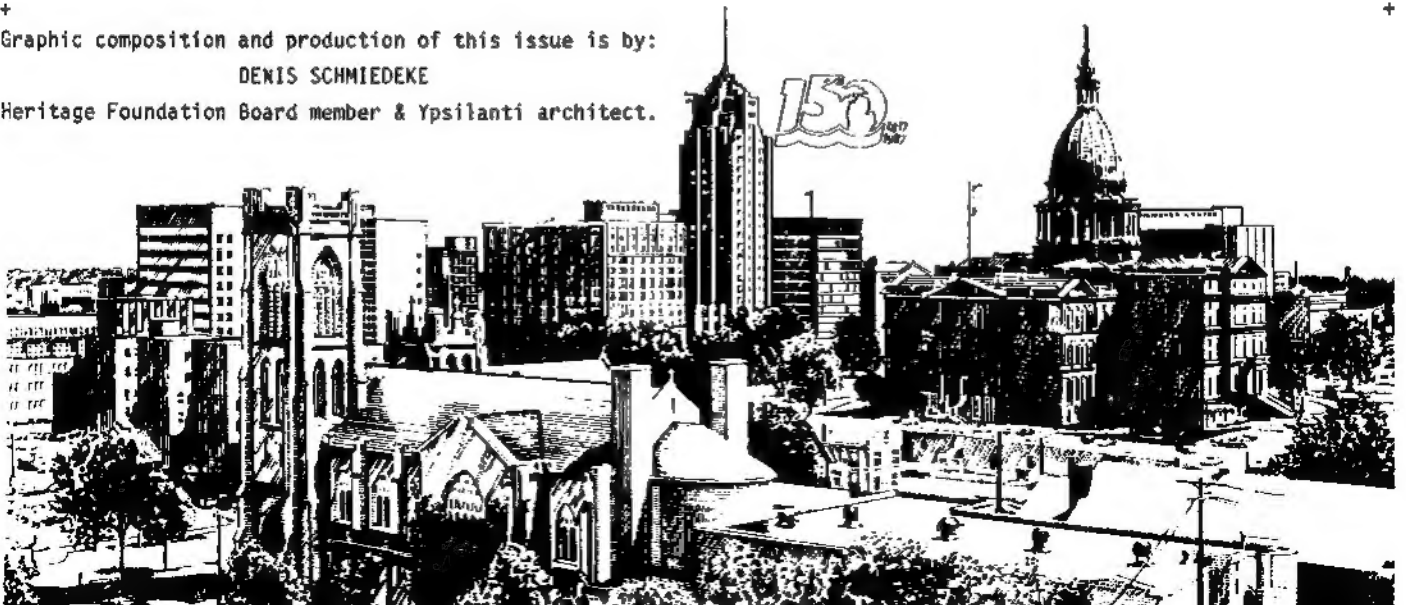
510 PEARL

YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197

Graphic composition and production of this issue is by:

DENIS SCHMIEDEKE

Heritage Foundation Board member & Ypsilanti architect.



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MARCH 1988

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Thursday, March 24, 1988

LOCATION: The Yankee Air Museum, Willow Run Airport
Ypsilanti; Michigan

PROGRAM: 6:30 pm - Guided Tour of the Museum (\$2.00)
7:30 pm - Slide-Tape Show: "The History of the
Willow Run Bomber Plant" (free)

SPEAKER: Ms. Flavia Reps, Washtenaw Community College

"The Yankee Air Museum", he asks, "Isn't that on the Mall in Washington?" "No, dear, it's at Willow Run Airport, just east of that town with the strange sounding name: Ypsilanti." No doubt there are a great many Ypsilantians themselves who don't know the whereabouts - or even the existence - of the Yankee Air Museum. This fact, coupled with an awareness that the Willow Run Bomber Plant made the greatest single impact upon Ypsilanti in the twentieth century, has led the Heritage Foundation to schedule the above program.

Fortunately, we have not only had the full cooperation of the staff of the museum in setting up our program, but their trained guides will be on hand for a guided tour of the museum ("under the nose of the B-17"). This part of the program will begin at 6:30, sharp. The charge is only \$2.00, which goes directly into the coffers of the museum. **YOU SHOULDN'T MISS THIS!** If you must miss the tour (or have already visited the museum), then come at 7:30 for our special Foundation program, featuring a slide-tape show depicting the history of the Willow Run Bomber Plant, for which we have been lucky enough to engage the specialist on the subject, Ms. Flavia Reps of Washtenaw Community College. This is a wonderful opportunity for us all to learn more about that great period of Ypsilanti's history: World War II and the Bomber Plant.

**BRING YOUR MEMORIES, OR A FRIEND WITH MEMORIES, AND SHARE THEM!
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED. SEE YOU THERE!!**

Directions: Michigan Ave or Ecorse Rd to Belleville Rd; right (south) onto Tyler; west on Tyler to Beck; north on Beck. Enter second gate on your left. Alternate route: I-94 east to Belleville Rd; north to Tyler; then, as above.

2 PRINCE CHARLES SPEAKS OUT ...

Prince Charles, Britain's most celebrated architecture critic, addressing a conference on the regeneration of older cities in Pittsburgh, said, "If we encourage a renaissance of craftsmanship and the art of embellishing buildings for man's pleasure and for the sheer joy in beauty itself, as opposed to mere functionalism, then we shall have made our cities centers of civilization once again".

Several times, the Prince spoke of the need for average citizens to become involved in the process of planning cities. (Yeh! Ypsilanti!) The Prince, incidentally, attended much of the program, listening attentively from a chair at the side of the stage as he scrutinized the ornate classical dome of the hall. Later, on a tour down the Monongahela Valley, he expressed his hope that its older industrial buildings could be viewed "as a real asset which, once restored and converted, can ensure the town or city has a special character of its own". Why didn't someone invite him to Ypsilanti? (You'd like it here, Your Royal Highness!)

REMEMBERING WORDEN GEER ...

Your editor would like to record for posterity one moment in the life of Worden Geer, his neighbor who died on February 18, 1988. It was, I believe, two years ago, late on an afternoon in June, when JoAnn, his wife, invited me to join them on a walk up Pearl Street from the Geer homestead at 501. It was a leisurely stroll; and, as we walked, he told us about all the people who lived in those houses we passed, in the days when almost all of them were substantial single-family residences. The memories were sharp and vivid, as he described in that soft, gentle voice of his, the names, the appearances, and the characters of all his neighbors of long ago. If only I had a tape of that moment, I would have a treasure of this street's history. As is, I have a treasured memory of a special neighbor and friend.



AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL?

Then let's pick up, clean up, fix up NOW. Spring cleaning time is here. Let's take a bag and do our block proud by picking up the trash of winter. It will only take a moment, but it will make us feel a lot better about ourselves, our neighborhood, and our land.

CBC OFFERS MOSEY FOND FAREWELL...

The Central Business Community is to be commended and thanked for its generous gift of a wonderful fareful party for Sue Mosey. Held at the Mainstreet Restaurant on February 29, the party brought together a large number of people, all grateful for the opportunity to say 'thanks' to Sue for all she has done for Downtown. Sue will not soon be forgotten, and we thank the CBC for sponsoring the gathering that marked the departure of Ypsilanti's first Main Street Project Director.

1988 FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT SYMPOSIUM and FESTIVAL: Preserving Wright's Heritage

March 24, 25, 26 & 27, 1988

At Domino's Farms and the U of M Campus

For more information, contact:
University of Michigan Extension Service
Conferences & Institutes
200 Hill Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
764-5305

PRESERVATION PERFECT: SEE 518 WASHTENAW...

Take the trouble now, before the work at the rear of 518 Washtenaw gets painted, or you won't know that anything has changed. Come south on Perrin, either from Cross or Emmet, and look on your left as you reach Washtenaw. There you'll see a perfect job of restoration: roof (even with a skylight!), fish scale shingles to match the main body of the house, and siding that blends perfectly with the rest of the structure. If only other property owners would be willing to invest in this way, owning a place in Ypsilanti would take on a whole new meaning. Note, by the way, the new roof and paint job at this address, as well. We can only assume that the missing spindles and skirting on the front porch will be replaced to match original. Then the Historic Structure Marker committee of the Heritage Foundation would HAVE to consider the owner of this house as an honored recipient!

If you want to get away for an over-night or a restful weekend; try driving west to Union City, where you'll find The Victorian Villa, a bed and breakfast in the grand manner.



You could make a quick shot on I-94 to Albion, wander through that old college town, full of character, and - unless you haven't seen Marshall - head south on 99, thence SW on 60 toward Union City. You might want to stop in Homer, just to see what's left of that old village with the classic name. As so often when traveling through America, you are torn between ecstasy and despair at the glory of the past and the desecration of the present. "When", you ask, "will Americans discover - and appreciate - what they have?" In Homer, it's late, but not too late; but the prognosis is grim. Still, if you appreciate old brick and cast iron decorative features, a walk down the main street of Homer is a treat. The variety of features in one block stirs the imagination: what a joy it would be to see this place "come back"! But the destination is Union City!

The Victorian Villa there was rated "tops" on the list of the ten best Inns in the Midwest. It towers over its neighbors along North Main, even though it is situated on relatively low terrain. An Italianate Villa, with a mansard tower (roof shaped almost like a pagoda) and ornate front porch, it stands behind old maples and is surrounded by two acres of splendidly well-kept Victorian gardens -

urns everywhere, and statuary, and pool, and even a tombstone of the builder! An ancient catalpa graces the garden on the north side of the house, where peonies blossom by the thousand ("armsful") in late May and early June. There is a coach house or barn of relative simplicity, where the owner and his family now live. Once inside, you had better be prepared to step back in time - indeed, to that specific time we now call High Victorian: high ceilings, grand staircase, walnut woodwork everywhere. And the lush furnishings fit the period perfectly - right down to the palms, ferns and cactii. As you warm yourself by the fire and twilight descends, the atmosphere grows more and more colorful and romantic as the myriad of Gone with the Wind lamps, with their variety of color and design, take possession of the rooms. You can wander up through the house and, if doors are open, you can walk in. Each room has a slightly different period look; yet all fit the character of that glorious era of our history. A visit to the tower lookout over the town is a must.

From 4:00 til 6:00, there is English tea set out in the old kitchen. Help yourself! Then wander about the garden and perhaps through the town, which has lot of architectural interest. It's one of those communities where hardly anyone locks their doors and kids wander across years (there are few fences) from block to block. You can lament the intrusion of a condo or a drive-in bank or a laundry, but it's still a pleasant place to wander. This time of year, the omnipresent maples are hung - from one end of town to the other - with clear plastic bags in varying degrees of fulness with sap, a project run by the Rotary.

Back at the Villa, if you scheduled dinner (and you should), you will sit down at the big table in the romantically lit dining room to a six course meal, including wine. There are no intrusions of the twentieth century: no radios or TVs or computers; the telephone is hidin in the stairway to the basement. Ron Gibson, your host, has taken great pains, not only to authentically restore and furnish this masterpiece of the 1870s, but to create an atmosphere characteristic of the period. Rest well in that enormous Victorian walnut bed! Enjoy the enormous bath! And wander down in the morning, open one of the multitude of walnut window shutters and let in the sunshine, and go get a cup of coffee.

(con't)

HURON RIVER CORRIDOR FOOT BRIDGE: Progress Report...

Have you looked at Ford Lake lately? Try pulling into the new public parking lot just south of the Armory (take Hamilton across I-94: it's on your left). Then look for the tarmac path and head east, down the hill, through the woods which in a few weeks should be lovely. This takes you to the marshes along the NW side of Ford Lake, where you'll find viewing decks over the lake, and a board walk through the cattails to the north side of the lake. On your left, alas, is I-94; but on your right is the lake itself, with the almost completed island walkway that will accompany the golf course underway. Halfway along is a Monet-like arched bridge (give me the wisteria, quick!) and along the bank of the lake something like ten thousand roses have been planted to delight our senses, in contrast to the highway horror t'other side. This path brings you out at Grove, and you can either backtrack or do the long trek north to Prospect into the old East Side and thence back to the car. Sue Dickinson reports that the first phase of the linkup between Riverside Park and Ford will be built this summer. That will include a footbridge over the Huron and under Michigan Avenue and extend to the Water Works.

Next summer the path will be built to I-94, and the following summer the linkup will be made with Ford Lake. Keep on the trail of these footpaths, Sue!

CLASSY RESTAURANT IN DERELICT DEPOT...

Last year at this time we reported that plans were being finalized for a new restaurant in the old depot. We shall watch the action over the next several months. Already you can see the foundation repair and the replacement of the tower underway. Pillars on the entry have been rebuilt and much demolition work is going on inside. It will be a constant source of pleasure this summer to see that centerpiece of Depot Town come to life!

THOMP...Shhhhh!!

Hush, don't say anything, but did you notice that there has been some window repair on the Thompson Building? Can it be that that building will someday be on track with the rest of Depot Town? No, surely ... but then, who knows?

GILBERT HOUSE RENOVATION NEAR COMPLETION...

Last spring we reported that the work on the Gilbert Mansion hopefully would begin by April 1. Well, the job is essentially done now. The two glorious tower units are occupied and a third unit, as well. However, not all units are leased, as yet. Contact Steve and Chris White, if interested. It is a joy to watch that building come to life, and to see lamplighted windows at night!

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MAKES HISTORY FOR THE DISTRICT...

After successfully having two buildings moved to other locations within the Historic District, the Congregational Church is now in the process of completing an addition to its historic church at the corner of North Adams and Emmet. It's good to see new development happen in the District! Congratulations!

310 NORTH ADAMS FINALLY GETS A FACELIFT...

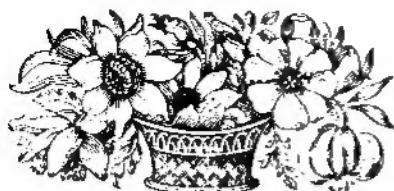
Jack Travis and Richard Reed of Ypsilanti Environmental Preservation, Inc., have purchased and are putting back the unique architectural wonder at 310 North Adams. We have waited long for this moment. The house's fascination lies in its eclecticism: a blend of many styles and materials - wood, stone, brick, shingles - all of which seem to work together to add enormous interest to the streetscape. Right now - and for the past many years - the house is, well, brown. But let's watch the transformation, as Jack and Dick restore the building to its former glory. Let's watch it happen this summer!

WATCH 305 NORTH ADAMS, AS WELL!...

Mary Ellen Smith's Queen Anne at 305 North Adams, just across from Jack and Dick's, is also showing signs of restoration that are encouraging. A superb composition of clapboard, brick, fish scale shingles and stone, the house also features a one-of-a-kind, elaborate, lacy porch that had fallen into decay in recent years. But now, if you notice, work has begun. Pieces are being put back, the roof is repaired, and the whole structure stabilized. This is good news, not only for a valuable house within the Historic District, but for the neighborhood, as well.

Breakfast is in the old kitchen, around the table. Everything is immaculate! On your way back to Ypsilanti, you can meander southeast to Coldwater and do a little tour of its architectural wonders, then east on US12, perhaps stopping at Allen to look in the antique shops and secondhand bookstores. Jonesville is also worth a good look-around (they, too, have a beautiful Greek Revival bed and breakfast you can try next time!) Then on to the Bauer Manor, this side of the Irish Hills, for a late lunch or dinner, and on home.

But why doesn't Ypsilanti have a bed and breakfast? Mr. Gibson has been looking for another place that he can restore and open. He asked Chuck Soule for Old Town Hall, but it was not available! Let's keep looking. We are ready for such an enterprise. Mind you, it's not for everybody: it takes a special kind of person to do the job. You either have it or you don't. But Ron Gibson has it. He would also be interested in a small hotel, about twenty rooms, that he could restore to period charm for a similar operation. Can you think of anything?



IF YOU STILL HAVEN'T PAID YOUR 1987 FOUNDATION DUES ...

Remember, September is the time to pay dues. If you know you didn't pay then, perhaps you would like to bring your membership up to date.

Membership is just \$3 for students and senior citizens, \$10 for individuals, and \$15 for families.

Please make your check out to:

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

and mail to:

Betty Randazzo, Treasurer
Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
6101 Hitchingham
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

WELCOME, NEWCOMERS ...

Constance Bassil, owner of Art Deco Design on West Washington in Ann Arbor, has just bought a little Greek Revival on Maple on the East Side. She looks forward to having a garden of vines and flowers in that old neighborhood of long back years, old trees and alleys. Welcome!



NEW HDC MEMBER...

Bill Nickels, Vice-president of the Foundation and historic home owner on Wallace Boulevard, has just been appointed to the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission. His interest in historic preservation has been tested not only in his community service, but also in the very practical business of maintaining his own residence. His willingness to serve on the Commission is further evidence of his dedication. Residents who go before that body can rest assured that Bill will be helpful in every way he can. Congratulations, to both the HDC and Bill.

NEW YHF BOARD MEMBER...

Richard Leyshock was elected to membership on the Board of the Heritage Foundation at our last public meeting in January. Rick and his family have an Historic Structure marker house at 1008 Congress, which was a part of our 1987 Home Tour. Welcome to the Board, Rick.

HELP KEEP US ALL INFORMED!

Send items of preservation doings, community improvements, and any other items of interest to readers of the Heritage News to:

Jack Harris, Editor
Heritage News
510 Pearl
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(or call 485-2155)



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MAY 1988

Ypsilanti, Michigan

MEETING: Wednesday, May 18, 1988 - 6:30 pm
LOCATION: Ladies Literary Club, 218 N. Washington
SPECIAL EVENT: 7th ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
14th HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKER
AWARDS PROGRAM

It's SPRING again in Ypsilanti - an almost English spring, with the forsythia lasting longer by far than usual, the magnolias more outrageous than ever, and the lilacs threatening to overwhelm us with their scent and beauty. And it's time again for the Historic Structure Marker Awards Banquet.

This year, the Marker Awards Committee decided to recommend only one award, but what an award it is! After great deliberation, Don Randazzo, Chair, and his committee members, Bill Nickels, Jane Bird and Denis Schmiedeke, voted to recommend and the Board unanimously voted to accept

THE GILBERT MANSION

as the outstanding structure of the year, and its owners

STEVE AND CHRIS WHITE

as recipients of an Historic Structure Marker for their miraculous restoration of the Gilbert Mansion on North Grove Street. After a lengthy period of time in which arrangements were made between the City and the Whites for the sale of the property, the brothers got started last year on the monumental task of restoring the building and converting it into seven luxury apartments. Now the job is done and most apartments are rented, including both Italianate towers; and when you drive or walk by at night it's a joy to see lights on in that major piece of Ypsilanti history!

It's time to celebrate!

HAVE SCOTT & MARY RILEY GOT A HOUSE FOR YOU!

Scott and Mary Riley, who so beautifully restored their own Queen Anne at 313 East Cross, have taken the plunge and rescued the house across the street, a much abused Italianate. They have begun work on it, clearing out debris, new electric hook-up, and have started on the roof. The house needs a lot of work, and it is not for the timid or the penniless - but the rewards of restoring this gem would be immeasurable. To the average eye, the house in its present condition looks forlorn, sad, sorry. Outside, it's painted white and black, with its best features - a splendid two-story west bay window and fanciful decorative hoods above the windows - all blotted out in black! (How better to kill the character of a place!) Inside, too, there is a desolate look. But, to the imaginative eye, it has distinct possibilities: a large kitchen space, big enough for work, storage, and everyday dining; a large room with the bay window; and the front room, with tiled Victorian fireplace completely intact. Upstairs, the floors are antique pine and the rooms are spacious. The house stands on an embankment above East Cross Street, with a long lot to the alley, almost big enough for a football field (but croquet would be more appropriate). At the back is a charming board-and-batten woodshed. The Rileys have had a For Sale sign out front and lots of interest, but what is needed is someone with both imagination and money who can carry the cost of putting the place back together appropriately, with the attention to detail that it needs. If you are serious (and meet these qualifications), then call the Rileys at 485-4342.

ANN ARBOR SENIORS TOUR YPSILANTI ...

Turner Geriatric Services of Ann Arbor, under the auspices of The University of Michigan Hospitals, have been sponsoring a series of study programs and distinguished lecture series for retired seniors. Their present study is entitled "The Evolution of Architecture in Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor." After a lecture by Kingsbury Marzolf, the group will tour historic Ypsilanti. Since response to the series was overwhelming, two dates had to be set up for separate bus tours: May 12 and June 9. Jack Harris, Foundation president, will meet the group at the Kellogg Auditorium in Ann Arbor, where everyone will board a bus, and the tour will begin. It will be an introduction to the styles of architecture to be seen in Ypsilanti, from its earliest years to the present. It should be fun - and a wonderful chance to spread the good word about Ypsilanti: a great place to live, amongst a great collection of old houses with enormous variety of interest - almost a museum, but with a difference, for the place is very much alive!

SOUTH SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION HOLDS GARAGE SALE ...

Mary Jensen reports that the South Side Neighborhood Organization will hold a Super Garage Sale, 9 to 4, Saturday, May 14, in the parking lot of Child and Family Service, 118 S. Washington. Funds will go for South Side projects. Don't miss it!

Help yourself to HEALTH!

Shop at the YPSI FOOD CO-OP

312 North River

Mon, Tu, Th, Fri, 10-7;

Wednesday, 10-9;

Saturday, 9-7; Sunday, 12-5

NEW MAIN STREET PROJECT DIRECTOR - WELCOME!

Mary Ann LaBelle, new Main Street Project Manager, has been on board just over two weeks. She will be concentrating this summer on business recruitment and continue facade and entryway improvement work. Parking will be an attention-getter, especially in terms of the impact the new business school will have on Michigan Ave and the Hamilton Street corridor.

CONTRACT FOR WELCH HALL RENOVATION AWARDED ...

The Board of Regents awarded a \$2.6 million contract to Christman Co. of Lansing to renovate historic Welch Hall. The contract bid requires an additional \$126,000 in University funding and deletes renovation of the basement and attic, but most preservationists can live with that limitation, so long as Welch is saved, the site of so much educational history in Ypsilanti. If the facade is properly restored, it will be a proud symbol of our history and a perfect setting for administration offices, adjacent to McKenny Union.

WATCH HURON RIVER PARKWAY PROJECTS THIS SUMMER!

Sue Dickinson, acting director of community development, predicts that Peninsular Park, now nearly 80% completed, will be the most popular place for recreation in the city soon. She notes that we will see more landscaping in the Frog Island and Farmers Market area, as well as around the Cross Street bridge. Then watch for work to begin under the Michigan Avenue bridge (when they iron out structural problems involved in an under-walk from Riverside Park on the west to the proposed downriver path on the east). That path will follow the river to Gilbert Park (you know, the one behind the Flea Market) and from there there will be a pedestrian bridge across to the west side of the mighty Huron into Waterworks Park. Eventually, all this will link up to the Ford Lake development. Imagine how all this will increase Ypsilanti's appeal!

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED ...

The Heritage Foundation has again awarded a \$500 scholarship to an EMU student. Elaine Robinson, historic preservation major now serving as staff intern to the Historic District Commission, will be able, with the aid of this funding, to continue her work with the Commission through the summer months. She has a bachelor's degree in interior architecture from Wayne State and is a past president of Preservation Wayne. She was recommended to the Foundation by Dr. Marshall McLennan, Professor of Geography and Geology at EMU. The Foundation board accepted his recommendation unanimously. Congratulations, Elaine!

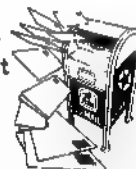
HELP KEEP US ALL INFORMED!

Send items of preservation doings, community improvements, and any other items of interest to readers of the Heritage News to:

Jack Harris, Editor

510 Pearl

Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (or call 485-2155)



"The basic purpose of preservation is not to arrest time but to mediate sensitively with the forces of change. It is to understand the present as a product of the past and a modifier of the future."

John W. Lawrence, 1970



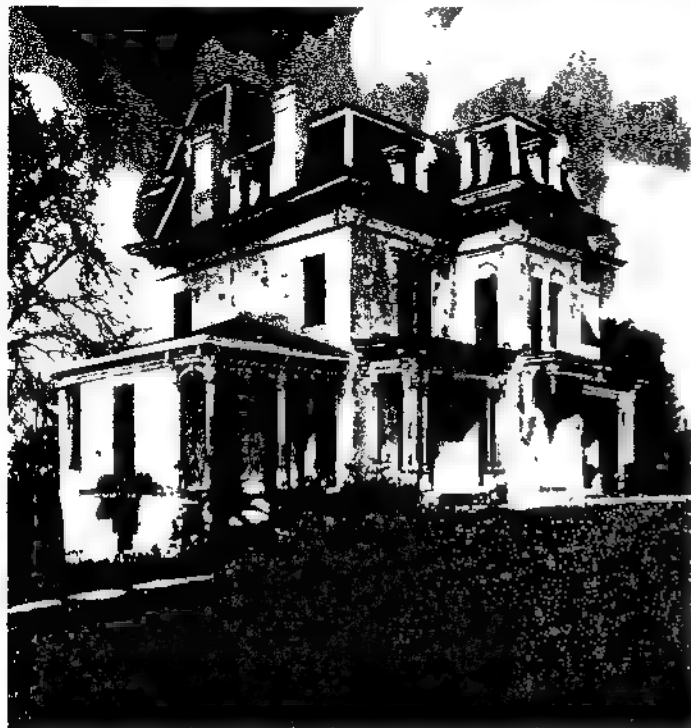
FIVE LANDMARKS IN YPSILANTI ... TEN YEARS AGO

And, while we're celebrating, the Heritage Foundation would like to call attention to a fact of Ypsilanti history that we fear many citizens have already forgotten. Ten years ago, the Foundation presented a series of Public Discussions, sponsored by the Michigan Council for the Humanities in conjunction with EML, under the direction of Jack Harris, President of the Foundation and Professor of English at the University. Five major, seriously threatened structures were studied in five public meetings, with speakers - local, state and national - in panel discussions, followed by public response. Slides were shown and much publicity was drawn to the buildings in the local presses. The five structures were ...

■ **THE ARTRAIN BUILDING**, 52 East Cross, Depot Town, Bev and Don Shankwiler - renovation well underway when our first meeting was held in the building on September 20, 1977;

■ **THE BECKER-STACKLEWITZ HOUSE**, 601 West Forest, in complete dereliction and increasingly vandalized, yet directly across from the President's house at the University - soon bought for renovation by John Talbot of Ann Arbor - meeting held at Holy Trinity Chapel on November 15, 1977;

■ **OLD TOWN HALL (the QUIRK MANSION)**, 300 North Huron - owned by the City, standing vacant, seriously threatened, if only by decay, later sold to Dale Hooker and Roy Gourley - meeting held on site on January 17, 1978;



■ **THE GILBERT HOUSE**, 227 North Grove - owned by the City, used as the Girls' Club - in a serious state of decay, soon to be abandoned - meeting held on site on March 21, 1978; and,

■ **THE GLOVER HOUSE**, 118 South Washington, owned by The Child and Family Service - serious structural problems, porches collapsing, general exterior decay - meeting held at Brown AME Chapel on May 16, 1978.

DO YOU REMEMBER?
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

Every one of these buildings is now restored to historic preservation standards! All of them are again a vital, living part of the community! Don't you agree it's time to celebrate? Consequently, we have invited the renovators of, not only the Gilbert Mansion, but of all "Five Historical-Architectural Landmarks of Ypsilanti" (the title of the program series) to be our honored guests:

- ☐ Don and Bev Shankwiler for
The Artrain Building;
- ☐ John Talbot for
The Becker-Stacklewitz House;
- ☐ Dale Hooker and Roy Gourley for
Old Town Hall;
- ☐ Steve and Chris White, of course, for
The Gilbert Mansion; and
- ☐ Bill Vollano, Director of
The Child and Family Service, for
The Clover House.

But can we leave it there? We say NO! for there is one other building that was to have been a part of the 1978 program series, but because of the then politically sensitive status of the building, it was omitted from our study:

■ **THE LADIES LIBRARY**, 130 North Huron - vacant then, in dire need of restoration - found a friend in the contractor of the Old Town Hall project - most of you know whom we mean: it was Tom Durant. And so we have invited him and his wife, as well, to be among our honored guests.

WELCOME ALL!

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks!
We salute you for the impact you have had on Ypsilanti!

Our Annual Awards Banquet is always a special occasion, but **THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION**, as we celebrate **THE MIRACLE DECADE IN YPSILANTI!**

So, don't miss this most pleasant of evenings: a spring banquet in one of Ypsilanti's most historic structures, with a variety of luscious dishes laid out on the long table in the dining room. Guests will fill their plates and gather in the front room for dinner and our short program. No business meeting, no speaker - just the presentation of the Award and before-and-after slides of the six properties we are celebrating.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND, MEMBER OR NOT, and you haven't as yet been called, simply pick up the phone and call our Banquet Chairperson, Dr. Judith Williston, 483-1347, and suggest what you might bring. **You will be most welcome!**

(Marker recipients are NOT, of course, expected to bring a dish, since they are our honored guests.)



**LET'S PLANT MORE FLOWERS AND
MAKE YPSILANTI MORE BEAUTIFUL
THAN EVER THIS YEAR!**

**LET'S PAINT MORE HOUSES
IN REAL VICTORIAN COLORS
AND MAKE YPSILANTI EVEN MORE
BEAUTIFUL FOR EVEN MORE YEARS!**

Heritage News

Heritage News is the newsletter of the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market, and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

AUGUST 1988

** GOOD NEWS EDITION !! **

Ypsilanti, MI

THE YPSILANTI HERITAGE FESTIVAL

August 26, 27, 28

SPECIAL EVENT: 11th ANNUAL YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION HOME TOUR

DATE: Sunday, August 28, Noon to 5:00 pm

TICKETS: Adults \$4.00 - Seniors \$3.00 - Children \$2.00

Available at ticket booths in the Festival area:

1. On the Cross Street Bridge
2. In front of the Historical Museum on Huron Street

HOMES ON TOUR

227 N. Grove (2 apartments)	French Second Empire
46 E. Cross (2 apartments)	Italianate Commercial
504 N. River	Bungalow
302 Oak	Italianate
619 E. Forest	Colonial Revival

SEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS -

VISIT SOME OF YPSILANTI'S FASCINATING HISTORIC STRUCTURES !!

XX

IT HAPPENED IN YPSILANTI IN 1988 !!

The Heritage Foundation presents its ANNUAL GOOD NEWS ISSUE telling of some of the improvements which have occurred in Ypsilanti over the past year, for our own delight and that of our Festival visitors, who enjoy seeing "what has happened" since they were here last year.

YOU CAN'T MISS IT! It must be the most visible and prominent project to get underway since our last year's Festival: the restoration-renovation of EMU's **Welch Hall**. The oldest building on campus, Welch Hall, the first campus building in the country to be designed as a training school, has had a long and varied history; and has been much used and much abused, and finally it has sat idle now for several years. Threats of demolition prompted a movement by Preservation Eastern to save the building ("Don't Squelch Welch", the campaign buttons said!) and this led to putting five campus structures, including Welch, on the National Register of Historic Places, thus forming a small but highly significant campus historic district.

More recently, Roy Wilbanks, Vice President for University Relations, was instrumental in getting a grant of \$2 million from the federal government to restore and refurbish Welch. Now, at last, as all can see there on Cross at the Water Tower, work is well underway. The exterior is being restored to its pristine glory, while the interior is being given a complete overhaul. Eventually, it will house executive offices and very impressive they will be in that historic structure, "up front" so to speak, and convenient to the amenities of McKenny Union. Your editor takes pleasure in remembering that he wrote a letter many years ago to then President Brickley recommending that that very use be made of the building. Now it appears that the dream is about to become a reality. Hooray for Eastern for taking advantage of its historic past!

A house you can hardly miss, 220 South Huron, is getting a complete rejuvenation of exterior and grounds (and no doubt interior, as well). It was the Newton-Gibson house, and known for its glories. Now it belongs to Sandy and Jerry Hoag, who have taken out the old battered shubbery and replaced it with fresh new. They clearly appreciate the elegance and grandeur of the place. Bravo!

Last year at this time we were encouraging you to drive by the **GILBERT MANSION** on North Grove to see the paint colors being tested on the exterior. Well, it's only a year gone, but the building is completely finished and, as you can see, two exciting apartments are on the Historic Home Tour. What a triumph over all the odds against it! And the magnitude of the triumph was recognized when the Heritage Foundation awarded the White brothers an Historic Structure Marker (the only one this year!) at its May banquet. Don't miss this opportunity to see the once derelict towers now attractive living spaces. Incidentally, space is still available, and every unit has unique and fascinating distinction. For information, call Steve White at 313-553-3840.

While in the Gilbert Mansion neighborhood, be sure to feast your eyes upon **Vince and Cheryl Zeullig's** Italianate gem across the street, on the SE corner of High & North Grove. Some of us had admired its exceptional features for a long time, but the building kept going from bad to worse. Suddenly, in the loving hands of new and appreciative owners, the house is undergoing a transformation. Even on the hottest of hot days in this hot summer, there they were, working on the exterior details, especially the rare and beautiful hoods over the windows, the ones on the ground floor with an oriental flavor. Now we're seeing the color scheme and it's terrific!. Don't miss it! Many thanks, Cheryl and Vince, for giving Ypsilanti back one of the loveliest of all its historic houses.

Also in the same neighborhood, on the SW corner of North Grove and Cross, revel in the transformation there - where white has for so long flattened out the details of a fine Queen Anne. **Judy Clouse** has carefully chosen a combination of colors that show off all the best that the house has to offer. Take a look at 330 East Cross!

Sue Homeyer, one of the members of City Council representing Ward 4, is proving her commitment to preservation this summer by having her carpenter/neighbor/friend Barry LaRue do some competent, creative work at her house at 516 N. Adams. Check out the side porch, which Barry rebuilt from the ground up to the posts, and even replaced one of those. Note the traditional wide wood steps and especially the new skirting, the pattern taken from another building in the neighborhood. Sue has also proven that old-fashioned garage doors can be rebuilt. She hired none other than the local firm of Precision Garage Doors to do the meticulous work and, once painted, who will ever know that these aren't the original? More work is planned, but this are enough to demonstrate her commitment to first class preservation. Thanks, Sue!

While you're at Sue's place, you might check out her neighbors to the immediate north: Tim Furbacher at 518 N. Adams has developed a garden of great imagination with wild flowers and playful elements such as a stile (those things the English use as steps over a fence, while keeping the cows in!) built in the middle of the back yard, going nowhere, but fun for kids!

RIVER STREET, did you notice, has been re-paved over the past year & a new layout at the intersection of Cross & River helps the traffic flow at that busy junction - all good for business in the area, surely.

OLD CROSS STREET BRIDGE BALUSTERS are still available and some are finding new uses, as you will witness on Home Tour at the Mayor's house at 504 North River, where they are used to create a decorative effect on an otherwise plain concrete back stoop. Denis Schmiedeke suggested the idea and Barry LaRue executed it. Do notice. And, if you want balusters, call Bill Nickels (483-8896) or Jack Harris (485-2155). Those which remain are invariably in some way damaged, but what do you want when you're buying ruins from a ruin? **WHERE IS YOUR ROMANTIC IMAGINATION?**

This Festival will mark the beginning of what we hope will be regular **GUIDED TOURS OF HIGHLAND CEMETERY**. The Reverend Jasper Pennington of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, who is coordinating the plans, tells us that tours this year will coincide with Home Tour on Sunday, 12 to 5. This is especially fortuitous, since all the homes on this year's Tour are on the East Side and near the cemetery, which is at the north end of River Street, up beyond Forest. All tours will be guided; they will start at Starkweather Chapel, where there will be a display and a chance to view that beautiful monument. The leaders will then take you on a tour of some of the most notable markers of the 19th and early 20th centuries, where you can perhaps best see our history laid before you.

It will be something of a nature walk, as well, as Highland is one of the most beautiful cemeteries to be found in this part of the country. **DON'T MISS THIS PART OF OUR HERITAGE AT HERITAGE FESTIVAL!**

Speaking of the **CEMETERY**, we should perhaps announce that the Heritage Foundation has assured the Cemetery Board that it will deliver up \$500 towards restoration of the Chapel once work gets underway. Moreover, the Foundation has responded to a request for funds to enable use of a second color in the new paint job on the Sexton's House at the gate, another structure not to be missed on your walking tour. The Board of the Foundation was pleased to feel a part of the growing appreciation of this historic site.

DOWNTOWN SIDEWALKS NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD before **Harvel Hayes** took on the task of cleaning up with his "Ypsilanti Main Street" cleanup push cart. Inspired by the Main Street Program and paid for by the DDA, the job is well served by Harvel, who declares he likes the summer '88 heat (reminds him of his childhood in the South). See him, greet him, and have a chat next time you're downtown. He adds a nice personal touch to the busy thoroughfare!

KEEP YOUR EYES ON **415 West Forest**, too, where major work has been going on to restore the classic front porch on this Queen Anne house. Word has it that a fire destroyed a major portion of the porch roof earlier this summer, but repairs have been made and work progresses. It seems that tender loving care is being given **THIS** fraternity house - would that it were so with some of the others we've seen!

IT'S TOO EARLY TO TELL what will happen at the adjacent historic building at **417 West Forest**, where the glorious classic pillars (they had fallen into decay) have been removed and 4x4s prop up the roof. Cross everything, and hope that the owner is willing to make an investment in real restoration or replication for Ypsilanti's best (only?) Georgian Revival house. It can be done, and should be done. The loss is unthinkable. (Congratulations, and thanks, to the fraternity members who have spent hundreds of hours scraping and painting, mowing and trimming, laying new brick walks and washing windows - they should be an inspiration to other fraternities near the campus!)

THE CITY HAS COMPLETED ITS FIRST REALLY PROFESSIONAL PROMOTIONAL VIDEO. And the historic preservation movement which is at the center of the City's renaissance plays an important part of the program. It's only ten minutes long and is well worth the modest \$15 cost - available at the Chamber of Commerce, now ensconced in Judge Breakey's grand Greek Revival mansion at 125 North Huron, where you can see another long overdue paint job in progress. Hooray!

THANKS to ALL WHO WATER AND SWEEP, especially this oppressively hot summer weather.

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH has scheduled a concert of American music for Friday evening, Aug. 26, to begin the weekend of festivities. The program for piano, organ, voice and flute, will be performed by the musicians of St. Luke's. It will be free. There will also be an Ypsilanti **Area Art Exhibit and Sale** at the church from 10 to 5 on Saturday & from 12 to 5 on Sunday, **AS WELL AS HISTORICAL TOURS OF THE 1858 STRUCTURE DURING THOSE SAME HOURS.** You may enter the church through the charming garth (an old English term for garden), where ashes of parishioners are sometimes interred and flowers bloom from one end of the season to the other.

NO CHANGE IN COLOR, and indeed there shouldn't be, at the yellow brick **FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST**, 123 North Adams; the new paint job does that simple, classical style building with six tall, slender Corinthian pillars proud. The interior, you may be interested to know, is exactly as it was when build in 1924 - furniture and all!

302 SOUTH HURON, home of Bobby and Richard Suthard, has a new paint job right down to the picket fence. The colors are a little difficult to describe (shades of mauve?), but in any case, **WE LIKE IT.** The whole site is picture perfect, yard & all!

In Depot Town, the **Artrain Building**, its unique front showing Moorish influences - or at least Gothic - on an otherwise Italiante commercial style, residence of Don and Bev Shankwiler, is to be noticed anew for its splendid fresh paint job - no small task, considering the expanse of brick to be scraped and cleaned and the cast iron pillars to deal with. Do feast your eyes upon that one!

The Heritage Foundation wishes to extend **CONGRATULATIONS TO ELAINE ROBINSON**, this year's recipient of its EMU Preservation Scholarship. Elaine is serving as recorder for and assistant to the Historic District Commission.

WHEN YOU'RE IN THE VICINITY OF **310 NORTH ADAMS**, LOOK AGAIN AT WHAT HAS HAPPENED THERE OVER THE PAST YEAR. From dereliction inside and out, it has become a source of pride to the neighborhood. All the unique details of that elaborate exterior have been retained and restored, while inside the owners, Jack Travis and Richard Reed, have found some splendid surprises, especially the cherrywood in the front foyer and the cherry railings up the stairs. They deserve a round of applause for their treatment of that building!

YOU KNOW THE GREAT **PILLARS** that grace the elegant portico of **Steve and Mary Jentzen's** 1858 Greek Revival at **112 S. Washington**. Well, decay had set in, especially around the bases, and major surgery was needed. As we go to press, one pillar is being replaced with an exact replica from a special firm out east, and the other is being restored. Besides, the entire entry is getting a down-to-the-original-surface paint job. Let's look for another 130 years from this landmark, at least!

IT'S ABOUT TIME that someone said thanks to the **Caldwells** at **708 Pearl** for the fresh-flower look they have for years maintained around their property. It's worth noting as you drive or walk by. Remember, you ARE appreciated!

If you're looking for finished **OAK FURNITURE**, try the new Oak Factory which is ensconced where Mellen-camp's used to be, and open six days a week, 12:00-6:00 pm.

WELCOME to the new person at the center of changes and progress downtown - **Mary Ann LaBelle**, **Main Street Project** manager. She will continue the work so well done by Sue Mosey, concentrating at this time on business recruitment. You can visit her at the new Main Street offices **UPSTAIRS** at 32 N. Washington. If you think that's a step down from Main Street's previous historic offices on S. Washington, think again - and go see. You'll find a most exciting complex of early 20th century offices, with skylight and all. It's a fun building to visit! We wish you well, Mary Ann.

Work also goes on at the historic **G.A.R. building** on Pearl Street. This is another project under the supervision of the Maxtons, who have transformed the old Greene's Jewelers building on Michigan Ave, so we know it will be a class project when finished. There will be retail on the ground floor and residential above. Every effort will be made to retain all the character of this small, but very significant historic structure.

At the **CROSS STREET BRIDGE**, you will welcome the new pedestrian steps and smooth new walkways into Riverside Park. Notice, also, that the war memorial plaques have found, at last, a permanent home.

DOWNTOWN HAS TAKEN ON A NEW LOOK, HASN'T IT? You can't have missed all the new plantings at the east, south and west entrances - an abundance of flowers, shrubs and trees (no skimping here!) soothes the eye of the traveler. What's more, they are clearly professionally cared for and have survived very well the heat wave. The City and the merchants can be proud of this additional amenity. Visitors, too, can't fail to note attractive entry signs which mark approaches and parking lots.

IT MAY NOT BE HISTORIC PRESERVATION but Sue Dickinson, Senior Economic Specialist, is pleased to remind us that the 4.6 million which the City got from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for the renovation of the Four Hills Apartments on South Grove is nothing to sneeze about. It will, we hope, perk up considerably one of the City's major entry ways.

SUE IS ALSO PLEASED, of course, that she has gotten \$750,000, with just a little help from retiring House Speaker Gary Owen, for the further development of the Huron River recreational corridor. This block of money requires a \$250,000 local match. The local Press reports that the funds will be used to develop a park with the Loon Feather properties, to complete landscaping at the North Bay islands and the island in the middle of Ford Lake. Eventually, we will have bike trail connections all the way from Gallup Park in Ann Arbor to Ford Lake, southeast of Ypsilanti.

NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT NOW, but you may want to look, anyway - at the great wasteland where the new Gary Owen School of Business will be built in the coming months, at the intersection of Hamilton/Michigan, downtown. Almost all the property has been cleared. We will all wait to see what impact this monumental change in the City's landscape will have on the neighborhood.

Feast your eyes again upon the elegance of the Booth residence at 7 North Normal: the New Orleans house, as we like to call it, with double-deck porch the full width of the building. The yard, with cast iron fence, is as near perfect as you will find; and the baskets of flowers high up on the upper porch are the final touch. Thanks again, Howard and LuAnn!

HAS ANYONE GIVEN HUGH SPEER A COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD YET? He deserves it, as anyone can see by noting the wonderful gardens he has maintained, not only at his house, 413 W. Cross, but all up and down that block, even to the flowers you see blooming vigorously at the SE corner of Cross & Ballard. Carrying water by hand, he kept the streetside beautiful along that busy and often not-so-beautiful street. Kudos to Hugh Speer!

TO PHYLLIS BLAIR, ESPECIAL THANKS, not only for the dedication she has shown to the flowers in front of the Ladies Library at 130 North Huron, but also to the luscious garden that tumbles down the hillside into Riverside Park behind. Visitors shouldn't miss the vista of that Olmsted-like park, perhaps best viewed from the far corner of the parking lot at the north side of the Ladies Library, made even more impressive by the waterfull of flowers that Mrs. Blair has created over the hillside.

BLESS THE EVERARD SISTERS, of 310 Olive, for the post-fire work done on their house and garage - especially the replacement of two windows to match the bungalow originals, and a new garage IN CHARACTER with the house. It looks terrific, and you should notice it!

MEMBERSHIP IN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, founded in 1974, is a non-profit organization devoted to education about, and support of, Ypsilanti's historic resources.

Membership is \$10 for individuals, \$15 for families, \$3 for students and senior citizens.

Please send your check, payable to the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION, to: Betty Randazzo, Treasurer
6101 Hitchingham
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

THE EMU ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE PROJECT, it should be noted, goes on apace, though nothing is visible for on-site inspection. The school building itself is on campus, at a temporary site. Bids should be in about the time we go to press, and work should begin on the move to a permanent site in late September. The University is committed to having it on site and under restoration by Homecoming, October 22. It will be located at the NE corner of the lot on which Rackham stands, just west of the library and facing the great window that shields the old swimming pool. In other words, it will face north at that corner, as it did on its original site on Morgan Road. Every effort is being made to restore the building to its original character, while making it accessible to all students and visitors. A small addition at the back will give entry to the new basement, where a modern heating system will be installed. The addition will also house a unisex restroom. The school itself will thus retain its essential quality while becoming practical for modern classes. There will be a walkway behind the building, so students in passage from one campus building to another will have frequent contact with this important statement of the University's history, since so many of its graduates in the past went out to teach in a one room school. FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT ARE STILL URGENTLY SOUGHT, SO SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO EMU DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, MCKENNY UNION, WITH THE DIRECTIVE THAT THEY BE USED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE PROJECT, and you will receive acknowledgement.

It's been a **BANNER YEAR FOR THE REMOVAL OF OLD SYNTHETIC SIDING AND THE RECLAIMING OF ORIGINAL CLAPBOARD SIDING!** Many owners are happily getting acquainted with the nice old house that's been hidden all these years.

TOWERS ARE THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL, and well they might be, while we are watching the renovation of the Depot and the reconstruction of the tower that once graced that structure: one more exclamation point upon the historic landscape! Work seems to progress slowly but surely and we await the opening of the restaurant-to-be.

NATIONAL AWARD!

The Heritage Foundation takes pride in announcing that it nominated **Rochelle Balkam**, teacher of State and Local History at Ypsilanti High School, for an award from the American Association of State and Local History. Not surprisingly, she has won a coveted Certificate of Commendation and will be honored at the Association's annual meeting in Rochester, N.Y. in September. Ricky deserves it. She makes history come alive as few teachers do. She has worked tirelessly, in the classroom, on field trips, and at the Towner House Children's Museum, to instill in the young an awareness and appreciation of our heritage. She has been a major force in developing pride of place in the minds and hearts of Ypsilantians of all ages. We salute her!

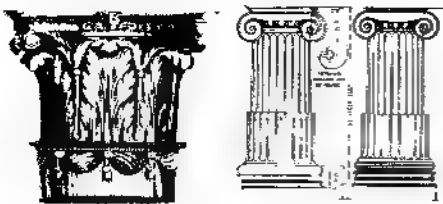
Don't miss the thorough paint job on the handsome Richardsonian Romanesque building at 119 North Huron - painstakingly stripped to bare wood by Ron Feipel and Paul Bird, it may already be showing its elegant new colors by Festival time!

WATCH FOR IMPROVEMENTS, TOO, at 205 W. Michigan, formerly Dolly's Pub, a building now owned by Louis Romanus of The Tower Inn restaurant on W. Cross, where he has made attractive additions. His downtown project will include four apartments upstairs and a fresh look to the facade!

CALENDARS, SOUVENIRS, AND GUIDES:

The Heritage Foundation is pleased to announce its 1989 appointment calendar, which goes on sale at Heritage Festival. On request, the Foundation has printed a retrospective of our popular calendars of years past, selecting representative works by twelve of the many local artists who contributed to those numbers. We hope you will like it, for it not only represents our historic buildings, but also displays the wide variety of artistic talent to be found in the area. Besides, when even the dullest commercial engagement calendar costs at least \$8, how could you pass this up for your own use and as gifts at the holidays for friends far and near? It is a perfect souvenir of Ypsilanti!

Also available is the Foundation's **GUIDE TO YPSILANTI HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE** (\$1.50) and the reprinted **YPSILANTI SOUVENIR** (\$2). All three are available at the Foundation's two Home Tour ticket sales booths.



OF COURSE, THE MOST IMPRESSIVE - AND COOPERATIVE - GARDEN EFFORT was initiated by **Charles Soule**, our other Council member for Ward 4, who started with petunias in front of his property at 300 N. Huron. This year, however, he orchestrated a community project, first by winning support from most property owners along that most historic street and then by gathering a whole flock of citizens on a day in May to plant petunias along both sides of the street. To everyone's amazement, they have not only survived the HEAT, but have flourished, thanks to lots of loving care given them by owners, tenants and others. Such commitment to beautification is catching, as can be witnessed in other places in the community.

DO LOOK AGAIN AT 211 NORTH HURON, a building you might have previously avoided seeing because of its sorry state. Now the inappropriate porch, a later addition, has been removed and the simplicity of the original structure is visible. The doorway, with its elaborate framing, including a carved medallion of eagle and cornucopias over the door, is the focal point and stresses the fact that the building is, in fact, Federal in style. The story is that the doorway originally faced the street, a prime characteristic of Federal, but that sometime early in this century, when a daughter was married and a house was to be built for her on the lot just to the north, 211 was turned sideways! Now restoration is well underway, and the owners, **Don and Billie Wardell**, expect to move in this fall. Bless you!

IN THE AREA OF CHURCHES, and don't overlook these central focal points of Ypsilanti, at least two new features are easily recognized within the Festival area: (1) the First Presbyterian's new Memorial Gardens are well underway. Though unfinished, the groundwork is clearly visible at the back of the church, facing the Towner House. There will be several benches, a stone plaque for names of the interred; more trees and plantings, all contributing to an appropriate setting for reflection. Looking out, as it does, on that lovely green space, the Towner House, and the entire vista of historic North Huron Street and beyond to the park and the river, it will serve as quiet refuge. Parishioners should be proud. (2) The First Congregational Church at 218 N. Adams, just one block west, has also made an important contribution to the Historic District - in fact, the first major building to be built by a church since the District was established. The new facility, just south of the church itself, makes the historic building fully accessible; it will be used both for educational purposes and for offices and restrooms. When we look back 10 or 15 years, when churches were contemplating moving to the suburbs, we should be pleased, indeed, to see now the investment in community that the churches are making.



It's fun to see action again at 219 Ballard (SW corner of Emmet), a property owned by Kermit Coleman, of Coleman's Farm Market. The place had gone to pot: it was falling apart & finally was abandoned for a long while. But it had a vintage garage out back and a tiny yard, a back porch with lots of detail and old fashioned charm, and was a house that all together still had character. Well, it appears that Mr. Coleman is aware of what he has and is taking steps to preserve as much of the detail as possible. Let's watch the work in progress and hope those who occupy it will appreciate its virtues.

IF YOU HAVE A CAR, you may want to drive south on Hamilton, just to see what changes have taken place beyond I-94, where a new Raddison Hotel and the adjoining EMU Corporate Training Center are well underway, surrounded by a spectacular new golf course. If you want to wander, pull in on the other side of the old Armory, where there are new parking spaces, and walk down through the woods and around Ford Lake. You get great vistas of the new complex. The whole project should draw movement toward Ypsilanti, rather than away, as we have known it in the not-so-distant past.



A MESSAGE WORTH REPEATING EVERY YEAR ...

There are still onions among the orchids - nobody knows that better than we do. BUT, next year, again, there will be fewer onions and more orchids! Come back and see us then!! We love having you here and your annual visit is a wonderful incentive for us to "get ready for company"! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

Heritage News

Heritage News is the newsletter of the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May, and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market, and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

SEPTEMBER 1988

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Tuesday, September 27, 1988 - 7:30 pm
LOCATION: The GREAT HALL (or the Grand Salon ... or the Ballroom) of Tom and Bettie Dodd's Italianate Commercial building and residence at 46 East Cross. Enter by the outside (covered) stair on the west side of the building.
SPEAKER: Tom Dodd
PROGRAM: Depot Town, Before and After: A New Look

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: 1. BRING A LIGHT WEIGHT FOLDING LAWN CHAIR.
2. Be prepared to participate in a fun-filled exchange between speaker and audience!

WHAT MORE CAN WE SAY? If you aren't glued to your TV, asleep in bed, or laid up in the hospital, you ought not to miss this program. If you have any interest in Ypsilanti neighborhoods (and especially in THAT ONE WHERE IT ALL BEGAN), in historic preservation, and in meeting the old gang and a whole lot of new-comers, then you most certainly ought not to miss this program.

Tom tells us that he hasn't done a program like this one in about five years, so don't tell us you've heard it all before. **THIS IS ONE CHANCE YOU SHOULDN'T MISS!**

SO COME! REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED. MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOUNDATION IS NOT REQUIRED, AND YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING A FRIEND!

REMINDER to those interested in **RENEWING MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOUNDATION** or **JOINING**, September is the time to send in your dues - or pay them at the meeting. We still haven't instituted a billing system, so we are dependent upon your goodness in this respect.

JOIN THE FOUNDATION - HELP MAKE HISTORY!

Individual	\$10	NAME
Family	\$15	
Contributing	\$25	ADDRESS
Sustaining	\$100	
Life	\$1000	PHONE

Make checks payable to Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, and mail to
Betty Randazzo, Treasurer
6101 Hitchingham Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

NOTICE: Heritage Foundation 1989 Engagement Calendar now available!

The YHF Board decided it was time to do a retrospective of the popular artists' calendar of years past, so this year we have selected 12 drawings from 12 of our most popular contributing artists in calendars produced between 1976 and 1985, and are now able to present you with this special edition. You will also be pleased, we think, with the variety of historic buildings we have chosen, from the now-famous 1976 drawing of the Towner House by Maria Zsigmund to the beautiful, detailed sketch of Welch Hall done by Richard Leinbach in 1985.

This is a calendar for everybody to own and treasure. It is also a perfect gift for colleagues, the kids' teachers, and for friends and relatives far or near, especially those who have retired to faraway places. **IT IS A GIFT THAT WILL MAKE YOU PROUD TO LIVE IN YPSILANTI!** And all for the rock-bottom price of \$4.00!

"How can I get copies of the calendar?" Look for them soon on the counters of several local businesses or call Penny Schreiber, our sales representative, at 483-5688.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HOME TOUR - the 1988 report:

With our usual good luck, Sunday dawned sunny & beautiful for the 11th Annual Historic Home Tour. This year, our chief fund-raiser drew a crowd of about 575, plus another 100 or so guides, ticket sellers, and other working volunteers. Ticket holders were treated to a wide variety of homes and apartments, all with their own special individuality. We are proud that our tour is NOT a "decorator" tour, but the expression of the individual tastes of the actual residents.

This year's tour was made especially pleasant by its being essentially an East Side Neighborhood tour, and the brochure included a guided walking tour up tree-lined streets and down old alleys, so that participants got a real feeling of PLACE. Most exciting to some was the house along the route, not on tour, whose owner was in the process of removing asbestos siding and discovering the fine old clapboard and fishscale shingles of his fine Queen Anne! The Foundation couldn't have staged a better example of Preservation in Progress!

A GREAT BIG THANKS from the Heritage Foundation Board to all of the people who made this year's Tour possible:

Home & apartment owners: Judith Kritzmire, Sally Collins, Rick Katon & Margaret DeFrense (at Gilbert Mansion); Tom & Bettie Dodd, Clare Hall & Sharon Collins (46 E. Cross); Mayor Pete Murdock & Grace Sweeney (504 N. River); Susan & Robert Schwartzenger (302 Oak); Doug Winters (619 E. Forest);

Chief Guides: Emily Brown, Diane LaRue, Penny Schreiber, Jinx Newton & Bettie Dodd; Norton's Flowers, for elegant flower arrangements in each place on Tour;

Connie Crump, for fund-raising and all her other great help;

Janet Weber, for her handsome design of brochure and advertising;

Linda Hummel, for the brochure photographs;

Karen and Bill Nichols, for ticket sales and set-up and removal of ticket booths (and for many hours spent cleaning and repairing the Towner House for Festival);

Rick and Carol Leyshock, for hosting the best-ever post-Festival party in their garden;

Hank Prebys and Joe Mattimoe, for walking tour information and signs;

The many guides and ticket sellers, without whom there would be no Tour!

AND, last but decidedly not least, **Jane Van Bolt**, our Home Tour Chairperson, for another tough year of decision making, meetings, phone calls, visits, and downright hard work - **THANKS, AND EVER THANKS!**

Footnote: Jane's proud to report we have already have volunteers for next year: Kim Koch for architectural research, Robb Pilkerton for historical research. Go get 'em, Jane - and we'll be bigger and better in '89!

Heritage News

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NOVEMBER 1988

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Tuesday, November 22, 1988 - 7:30 pm
LOCATION: St. Luke's Episcopal Church
The Exhibition Room - Downstairs
120 North Huron
PROGRAM: Solely on Food, Wine, and Gastronomy
SPEAKER: Jan Longone of The Wine and Food Library

Jan Longone is a culinary historian and owner of The Wine and Food Library of Ann Arbor, an antiquarian bookshop devoted exclusively to scarce and rare books on cookery and wine. In the latter capacity she is a collection developer for institutional and private libraries as well as a consultant to authors and publishers of cookbooks.

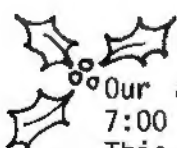
In addition to her book business, she is a writer, lecturer and radio commentator in the general field of gastronomy. Her prime area of interest, however, is the history of American cookery.

Mrs. Longone is a frequent lecturer on culinary history and at symposia such as those held at Radcliffe College, Oxford University and the Toledo Museum of Art. She is founder of the Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor. Her fine personal collection of early American cookbooks together with her husband's library of American wine books were on exhibit in 1984 at The William L. Clements Library of American History.

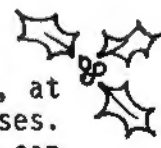
During her evening with us she will focus on American, Victorian, and especially local cookbooks; although she will, of course, be happy to respond to questions about other areas of cooking.

We were pleased that Rev. Pennington invited the Foundation to hold this Holiday meeting at St. Luke's, where we will have an opportunity to visit the interior of that most historic edifice.

Refreshments will be served, the meeting will not be excessively long, and you are encouraged to bring a friend, especially one interested in food and good fellowship! Come join us for a neighborly get-together!



THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!



Our annual holiday party will be on Sunday, December 18, at 7:00 pm, at one of Ypsilanti's most elegant historic houses. This event has been a tradition since 1975. We hope you can join us! For more information, call Jack Harris, 485-2155.

JOE LAWRENCE DOES IT AGAIN

When you're traveling in the area of Perrin and Emmet, be sure to note the progress being made on the long-delayed project on the southwest corner, where Joe Lawrence and his contractors, the Wilson Brothers, are finally completing work on that many-gabled Victorian with the elaborate front porch. So good to see it moving.

Note, too, if you will: the restoration project from claptrap to perfection is now complete at 7 South Washington, former offices of the Ypsilanti Main Street Project, and another Joe Lawrence building to be proud of.

ANOTHER EAST SIDE METAMORPHOSIS

Beautiful exterior color schemes seem to abound these days all over Ypsilanti, but have you seen the gem of gems, Peter Cousins & Sharryl Sullivan's new abode at 325 E. Cross, another one-of-a-kind Victorian fancy? Well, take a look next time you're up that way. Peter and Sharryl have chosen colors from Roger Moss' (the Victorian color expert) latest book, Victorian Exterior Decoration, and they are perfection. Welcome to our world!

WELCOME, too, to Terry and Mary McDonald, who bought the Blinn house at 315 N. Grove.

You might, while you're in the neighborhood, drive onto North Grove to take another look at Hugh Kennedy's house at 516 N. Grove, where we watched the asbestos siding being removed during Home Tour. Now the new paint job is underway - when weather permits.

And, you should pause again in front of that treasure, directly across the street from the Gilbert Mansion, that has been so lovingly restored, especially over the past summer. Vince and Cheryl Zeullig have now completed their restoration and painting of the exterior and it's all that we for so long have dreamed it could be. Thanks, and ever thanks, especially for those unendurably hot days last summer when we watched you working, in spite of the heat.

AS MARIANNE MOORE SAID OF POETRY, YPSILANTI IS A PLACE FOR THE GENUINE.

DENTIST'S OFFICE: From Bumble Bee to Beauty

Hardly anything downtown was uglier than the two-story building at 108 W. Michigan, usually referred to as the Bumble Bee. Remember? - all those wide, vertical black and yellow stripes? Well, if you haven't looked lately, you've been missing something. A beautiful restoration is in progress and near completion, with Lis Knibbe as architect. Hoods for the upper windows are being replicated, and that will about just finish the project, which included the neat discovery of a plaque in the upper tiers of brick, which reads: "Built by W. G. Davis, 1851." That may have been a hold-over from the original building before the Italianate facade was added, but nevertheless ... it's always a joy to see America recognizing and appreciating its heritage!

BODY SHOP BRIGHTENS DEPOT TOWN

Little need be said about the details of this restoration/renovation project, but we can all take delight in how cheerful it makes the vista in that area of our town, whether you're traveling down Cross or coming out from the Farmers' Market. What an improvement!

CAR AND DRIVER DESCRIBES OUR TOWN

What follows is a quote on Ypsilanti taken verbatim from the periodical, Car and Driver, October 1988, following a description of Miller Motor Sales and the World War II years:

"The gritty rail-yard atmosphere belies the proximity of sweeping lawns and towering Victorian mansions. They filigree the steep, lightly wooded slopes to the west, high above the meandering Huron River. The river divides the historic homes from Depot Town, the restored business district that contains Miller's Hudson shrine. As an area popular for good meals, strong drinks, and heartening strolls into yesteryear, Depot Town calls up an era straight out of old photographs. Pictures like the postcards Jack shows of his building in the early days.

GENERAL MOTORS GETS IN THE ACT; TOO

In case you hadn't heard the local gossip, General Motors Advertising Team was in town recently looking about for a little friendly, folksy, hometown atmosphere to serve as backdrop for an up-coming ad to appear, we're told, sometime in the new year. Where did they find what they were looking for? Yep, you guessed it: Miller Motor Sales, Ike's Barber Shop (both in Depot Town), and the Wolverine Restaurant downtown. Watch for it on your TV screen!

TOURS OF OUR TOWN INCREASINGLY POPULAR

The folks at the Historic House Museum on North Huron Street will tell you: this old town is definitely on the tour circuit, especially for groups interested in history and architecture. For example, Jack Harris recently guided a large group of seniors from the East Detroit area around the town, starting with an extensive visit to the museum and then lunch in Depot Town, after which they toured the East Side by bus, swung around through the historic areas of the south side, and thence up the hill as far as Normal and Summit and through the University, passing the Water Tower, Welch Hall in progress, and around past the little One Room Schoolhouse, the University's latest addition. Just for exercise, they then did a stint down North Huron from Old Town Hall to St. Luke's, soaking up a little of the glories, past and present, of that avenue. Jack was rewarded with a nice little check for the Foundation. Bravo!

Barry LaRue has rebuilt another porch to match the character of the house - this time at Verald Hobrock's home at 517 N. Adams. He tore down the characterless job that was there and replaced it, top to bottom, with all the essentials of the real thing: tongue and groove floor, turned columns, railings - the lot. Look's nice.

Bravo, Bonnie & Ed Penet, for the great new Sherriff-Goslin roof on your house at 108 N. Huron!

GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO OLD FRIENDS AT CITY HALL

Greetings, congratulations and best wishes to our old friends in their new positions: Bob Slone, Interim City Manager, and Mike Ager, Interim Community Development Director.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IN THE YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, founded in 1974, is a non-profit organization devoted to education about, and support of, Ypsilanti's historic resources.

Due are \$3 for students and seniors, \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families. Please send your check, payable to the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, to:

Betty Randazzo, Treasurer
6101 Hitchingham
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

CONTROVERSY OVER PUB PAINTING

Louis Roumanis' latest project - to convert the old Dolly's Pub to a new restaurant - has come in for some criticism in terms of "facade improvement", specifically, the painting of the pseudo-English Tudor "half-timbered" front. As was; the building was dark and dirty; now it is a pale grey-blue. The Tudor style facade was an addition to the original Italianate building, but it represents the best example of that style facade in this area and probably should be maintained. As far as paint is concerned, that is always reversible. In any case, English buildings of that period are usually painted black and white: the timbers themselves stained or painted very dark, if not black, and the infill (often brick) white. On the present project the plan, apparently, was to bring the ground floor in line with the upper level colors. In a future painting, perhaps the reverse could be attempted: do the lower level in true Tudor colors - as we see them on buildings today in England - and let that determine the color scheme above. Just an idea.

ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE ON SITE AND DEDICATED

Homecoming Weekend at EMU was punctuated this year with the dedication of the One Room Schoolhouse, attended by many dignitaries, including President Porter and his wife, Lois, who has been a strong force in seeing the project come to fruition. Dr. Scott Westerman, Dean of the School of Education, gave an inspiring speech, and Dean Rockwell, feisty Chairman of the project, made the introductions. Many members of the Geddes family, who donated the building, were present, as well as others who had attended the school.

After the ceremonies, the large group was treated to the first walk-through of the building. New windows, to match the old, are in, but most of the interior work is yet to begin. The building, however, will need much less interior work than might be expected after such a move: most walls are solid, most of the tin ceiling is in place, floors and woodwork need only a good cleaning and polishing, blackboards and teacher's platform (from which dramatic presentations were given) are in fine shape. What fun that building is going to be for special classes that will meet there and for school children from the area who will visit it! What an addition to the community! One more source of pride of place!
